

January 2004

NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Robert Wideman

## Overview

January 2004 revealed a mixed record of success in the traffic crash frequency pattern for the Northern Command area. Traffic crashes were up substantially (19.3%) compared to January 2003, but down 9.4% compared to December 2003. The rate of crashes with injuries followed the same pattern. Crashes involving fatalities, on the other hand, showed a substantial decline compared to both last month and last year. A significant portion of the trend may be associated with weather events and the hazards inherent with winter driving conditions. December 2003 had five major storms impact the area. January 2003 was very quite in terms of winter weather. The weather in January 2004 was worse than January 2003, and crashes increased. The weather was better than December 2003, and the number of crashes decreased.

Enforcement activities improved throughout the command in January 2004. Total enforcement activity increased by 18.1% compared to last month and by 29% compared to the same month last year. The increase from December can largely be attributed to the increase in work hours associate with a decrease in annual leave and compensatory leave. The troopers of the Northern Command also showed a continuation of vigorous enforcement of occupant restraint requirements and increased the number of proactive DUI arrests.

Staffing calculations have undergone a change in the calculation process in the interest of statewide consistency. Those calculations still reveal a decrease in available staff hours of over 27% compared to the same period last year. The most notable feature of the accounting of staff hours reveals an increase in the number of hours devoted to training as compared to the same period last year. The hours account for both training received by Northern Command staff as well as the number of hours devoted to providing instruction to students in attendance at the DPS training academy. The work hours lost to training increased by over 1100% compared to the same period last year.

Commercial enforcement activity showed substantial increases in the level of commercial vehicle inspections performed, inspections of school buses, and the enforcement of overweight trucks. The commercial enforcement unit has made strong progress toward the accomplishment of its goals in support of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan.

### *Content:*

Crash Analysis

Field Enforcement

Staffing Hours

Ratios

FY03 Performance

Northern Command	January -04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change		Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Total Crashes	365		306	19.3%		403	-9.4%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	254		218	16.5%		275	-7.6%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	110		83	32.5%		123	-10.6%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	1		5	-80.0%		5	-80.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	15		15	0.0%		12	25.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	1		5	-80.0%		6	-83.3%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0		3	-300.0%		2	-200.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		2	-200.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		2	-200.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1			100.0%			100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	17		7	142.9%		10	70.0%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	14		6	133.3%		6	133.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		0	300.0%		4	-25.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.3%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.1%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 0%  
 Seat belts applicable

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.7%

### Analysis

There was a 9.4% decrease in total crashes in January as compared to December. There was a reduction in each of the severity classes, the most notable is the reduction of fatality crashes. The one fatality accident occurred in the Carson/Tahoe district. There was however an increase in all severity classes from January 2003. This increase is due to the several winter storms that passed through the area during the month of January bringing high winds and precipitation. DUI related crashes remained at 15, the same number as in December 2003, and an increase of three when compared to January 2003.

## **Reno Urban Crash Analysis**

The area showed a 20.3% decrease in 'Total Crashes', with a 23.2% decrease in Property crashes compared to last month. This decrease was mainly due to the weather as December had five major storms hit the area causing a spike in the total number of crashes. In January, the area experienced similar weather to that of January 2003. Comparing crashes this month to the same period last year there was a slight increase in all categories with the exception of fatal crashes.

Looking at the whole crash picture for Reno Urban Traffic, it demonstrates that the majority of the area's crashes are occurring during commuter hours and during the traditional workweek. The majority of the injury crashes are occurring during the swing shift commute ( 4:00 pm through 6:00 pm). 51% (29) of all injury crashes occurred on swing shift. 26 of the 29 injury crashes on swing shift were "claimed injuries". "Claimed injuries" means that there were no visually apparent injury to the accident victim by the trooper, however, the citizen claimed that they were hurt. The Reno Urban section has concentrated the enforcement efforts on the central area of Reno where the crashes have occurred and during the high crash times.

## **Fernley/Fallon Crash Analysis**

The area shows a 5.5% increase in crashes compared to last month and a 34.9% increase compared to last year. No fatal crashes occurred this month compared to 2 last year and 1 last month. Injury crashes increased by 9 this month or 128% compared to last year but decreased by 30% compared to last month. 7 of the 16 injury crashes this month were non-transported claimed injury.

Commercial vehicle crashes continue to increase. This month commercial crashes increased by 7 or 140% compared to last year and increased by 5 or 71% compared to last month. However, of the 12 total crashes this month, 2 were vehicle fires, 2 were vehicle verses animal, 1 was investigated for the Churchill Co. Sheriff's office and only 3 crashes were driver at fault crashes.

## **Carson/Tahoe/Minden Crash Analysis**

The area had an increase in accidents this month in almost every category for a total of 115 accidents. This is the highest total number of accidents since 117 in July 2003. The largest increase was in property damage crashes, 18 more than last month for a total of 83. The area had an increase of 4 injury crashes and fatal crashes remained the same at 1. The fatal crash was a motorcycle verses vehicle. The Motorcycle rider died and was not required to wear a seatbelt, which is the reason for the 0.0% on page 2 under Percentage of persons killed without seatbelts. DUI crashes rose by 133.3%, but only 4 in number. Commercial vehicle crashes remain low for the area at 1.

## **S.I.R.T. (Severe Incident Response Team)**

There was one traffic fatality during the month of January 2004; personnel in the Carson/Tahoe/Minden District investigated this accident. The S.I.R.T. Team was called out to handle one serious injury accident with no felony prosecution. The team opened 8 hit and run cases for investigation during January 2004. Two of these cases are being closed, one is pending a warrant and five are still active. There are 20 open cases in the section, three cases from 2002, fifteen cases from 2003 and two cases from this year.

## **Area Weather Conditions**

The National Weather Service Reno, NV reported that the month of January had a strong weather front move into the area the first three days of the New Year. These weather fronts brought in significant precipitation and gusty winds. The average monthly temperature was 36.2 degrees. The precipitation recorded 0.96 inches with the heaviest amount on the 1<sup>st</sup> with 0.36, followed with two additional fronts on the 19<sup>th</sup> with 0.17 and the 20<sup>th</sup> with 0.40 inches.

Northern Command	January -04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change		Prior Reporting Period	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	15		15	0.0%		12	25.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	91		134	-32.1%		79	15.2%
Other Arrests	410		634	-35.3%		382	7.3%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	214		149	43.6%		164	30.5%
Speed violations	1216		1722	-29.4%		1575	-22.8%
Hazardous moving violations	626		906	-30.9%		713	-12.2%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	358		285	25.6%		350	2.3%
Total violations [above violations included]	5822		4930	18.1%		4512	29.0%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	22		14	57.1%		9	144.4%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	17		43	-60.5%		30	-43.3%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	606		466	30.0%		380	59.5%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	6			600.0%			600.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	205		247	-17.0%		228	-10.1%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1149		471	143.9%		591	94.4%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	39		53	-26.4%		15	160.0%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	13		19	-31.6%		5	160.0%
Total school buses inspected	100		95	5.3%		62	61.3%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	11		16	-31.3%		22	-50.0%
Total trucks weighed	54		302	-82.1%		42	28.6%
Total overweight citations	12		32	-62.5%		9	33.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	606		466	30.0%		242	150.4%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%

\* *Seat belt and child restraint*

## Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### Analysis

During January, there was a 29% increase in overall activity as compared to December, and an 18% increase in overall activity compared to January 2003. In the two areas that are emphasized to reduce the number and severity of crashes, Occupant restraint violations and DUI arrests prior to crashes, the Northern Command experienced an overall increase in enforcement. There was a 15% increase in DUI arrests prior to crashes and a 2.3% increase in occupant restraint violations compared to December.

## **Reno Urban**

The activity is up in every category this month compared to last month and January of 2003. Last month, Reno urban experienced an increase in calls for service due to the bad weather. The calls ranged from weather related accidents, motorist assists and other traffic control issues that reduced the time that would have been spent doing traffic enforcement.

There was an increase in activity comparatively with the time available to accomplish it. There was a gain of 13.4% in available working hours compared to last month. Over all activity increased by 30.9%. The number of citations is not the only comparative job element to consider. Compared to last month, the Troopers made 835 more traffic stops and due to the better weather there were 265 less motorist assists.

## **Fernley/Fallon**

Field enforcement activity continues its trend of increased citation activity. The number of arrests has shown an increase during the month of January. The assigned troopers increased the total violations issued this month by 26% over last month and 82.7% over last year.

Compared to last year speeding violations increased 59.4%, hazardous moving violations increased 25.9% and occupant restraint violations increased 281.8%. Compared to last month speeding violations increased 19%, hazardous moving violations decreased 18% and occupant restraint violations increased 44.8%.

For the first time in several months, area troopers increased in the arrest activity category. Driving under the influence (D.U.I.) arrests from crashes remained even at 2 compared to last year and decreased by 50% compared to last month. This fact may be attributed to the extra enforcement effort in D.U.I. arrest prior to crashes, which increased 45.5% compared to last year and increased 220% compared to last month.

## **Carson/Tahoe**

The area's arrest statistics remain consistent with the previous month with the exception of DUI crashes, which increased by 4. There are significant drops in arrests from last year, largely due to the reduction of troopers on the road. Citations remain steady for the current period and still show significant gains over last year. Total violations increased by 48.7% over last year and 8.7% over last month. There was a drop of 17.6% in seatbelt citations issued compared to December.

## **Commercial**

The section scheduled 7 check sites during the month of January, however, due to dividing the section into teams, 9 check sites were completed. The section completed 63 Level 1 inspections and increased the number of Level 2 inspections to 543, which boosted the goal achievement from last month's 13% to 28%. The section also inspected 100 school buses during January and placed 11 out of service until repairs could be made. The total number of trucks weighed for the month of January was 54. This is an increase from last month of 28.6%. Troopers were able to find and cite 12 overweight vehicles that were violating Nevada's Bridge formula weight laws, compared to 9 citations issued for the month of December 2003.

In the dyed fuel program Commercial Troopers tested 606 vehicles during the month of January. While no dyed fuel citations were issued during this time, the troopers continue to be dedicated to the enforcement of fuel tax evasion.

In addition the section issued 22 hazardous moving violations, 17 other non-moving violations/arrests, and reported 1149 safety violations on the Driver/Vehicle Inspection Reports. The section performed 606 inspections, placed 13 drivers out of service for violations and placed 39 commercial vehicles out of service during January.

Northern Command	Total Authorized Positions		Current Positions Staffed		Vacancy Rate	
<b>STAFFING</b>	January -04	Same Period Previous Year	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	90	98	14	76	0.0	0.0%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	19	19	1	17	1.0	5.3%
Commercial CVSI	3	3		3	0.0	0.0%
<b>BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY</b>						
<b>WORK HOURS LOST</b>	January -04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change	Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Annual leave	335.30		643	-47.9%	1612	-79.2%
Compensatory leave	334.50		540.1	-38.1%	495	-32.4%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	1097.05		858.2	27.8%	1015.55	8.0%
Military leave	609.00		70	770.0%	320	90.3%
Holiday off	308.00		188	63.8%	270	14.1%
Training	1752.50		145.5	1104.5%	1800	-2.6%
Administrative leave	6.00			600.0%		600.0%
Leave without pay			160	-16000.0%		0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	173.00		1211	-85.7%	0	17300.0%
<b>Total work hours lost</b>	4615.35		3815.8	21.0%	5512.55	-16.3%
<b>OVERTIME</b>	Jan-04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change	Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	1279.06		1313.1	-2.6%	1317.38	-2.9%
Compensatory overtime claimed	214.32		252.1	-15.0%	271.16	-21.0%
<b>Total overtime hours</b>	1493.38		1565.2	-4.6%	1588.54	-6.0%
<b>TOTAL HOURS WORKED</b>	January -04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change	Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	16608.00		20760	-20.0%	11072	50.0%
Work hours lost	4615.35		3815.8	21.0%	5512.55	-16.3%
Overtime	1493.38		1565.2	-4.6%	1588.54	-6.0%
<b>Total hours worked</b>	13486.03		18509.4	-27.1%	7147.99	88.7%

\* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

**Analysis**

The staffing information has changed at the top of page 6 from the previous months. The Authorized Positions do not include command staff. The fifteen positions in the administrative assignments include the Administrative Sergeant, the three troopers and one sergeant assigned to the S.I.R.T. Team, the Public Information Coordinator, the Command Liaison Trooper, the two troopers assigned to the court warrants section, the three troopers assigned to the background investigation section, the training officer, and two officers assigned to administrative duties. Numerical staffing numbers shown on page 6 reflect only those Sergeants and Troopers whose primary responsibilities include enforcement activity, crash investigation, and commercial enforcement. Command staff and sworn personnel assigned to administrative duties are not included, as they have no direct impact on the enforcement or accident reduction efforts.

In January, the Northern Command had one vacant trooper position in the commercial section. The total hours worked in January showed a significant increase due to not including the Sergeants hours in past reports. In addition, there was a significant decrease in the amount of Annual Leave and Compensatory Leave taken in January compared to December. January had a total of 335.3 hours of Annual Leave compared to 1612 in December. Of the 1,752.50 hours of training, 603.25 of those hours were training that Northern Command Personnel performed for the Training Academy.

**Reno Urban**

Staffing levels remain consistent with last month. The area continues to have several troopers not working the road due to their assignments in the background investigation section, military leave or administrative duties. Annual and compensatory leave were both down as compared to last month. The usage of sick leave increased due to two troopers on extended sick leave. Overtime showed an increase compared to last month and last year. The increase was partly attributed to the new radio installations for the 800 MHZ system.

**Fernley/Fallon**

Authorized staffing levels remain the same as December 2003; however, the total hours worked increased 31.7% compared to last month. This was due partly to the reassignment of a trooper who had been assigned to the Major Crime Interdiction team in Reno.

Compared to last month, the area troopers reduced annual leave usage by 48.6%, sick leave by 58.4% and training by 68.3%. Overtime also decreased this month by 12.3% compared to last month but increased 7% compared to last year, which is understandable when comparing the increased activity this year to last year.

**Carson/Tahoe**

Staffing is now at the level approved by the division due to a trooper accepting a position with the Division of Parole and Probation on January 5. One sergeant and one trooper remain on administrative assignment. Total work hours lost decreased by 16.1% due to a 53.2% drop in training. Overtime dropped by 11.3% over last month. Total hours worked dropped by 34.7% from last year, but increased by 6.1% over last month.

**Commercial**

Currently the Commercial Enforcement Section is operating at 88.9% of the authorized positions due to one vacancy and one trooper on light duty. The section experienced decreases in lost work hours in annual leave, compensatory leave and holiday leave. The only increase in January was in the amount of sick leave used. The section had an 18.9% increase in total hours worked when comparing January 2004, to December 2003.

Northern Command

**ACCIDENT RATIOS**

January -04

Ratio of crashes per Traffic position		
Total		4.8
Property		3.3
Injury		1.4
Fatal		0.0
DUI		0.2
Commercial vehicle		0.2
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash		1.0
Without seatbelts		0.0
With seatbelts		0.0

**FIELD ENFORCEMENT**

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position		
DUI arrests from crashes		0.2
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes		1.2
Other Arrests		5.4
Total persons arrested (DUI included)		2.8
Speed violations		16.0
Hazardous moving violations		8.2
Occupant restraint violations		4.7
Total violations		76.6



Northern Command

**INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

January -04

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations *		1.3
Other traffic violations - citations *		1.0
Total safety inspections [all levels]		30.3
Terminal inspections TIP		0.3
Total safety violations -- citation *		12.1
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.3
Total safety violations -- repair order		57.5
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		1.9
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		2.0
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.1
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		0.7
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		0.2
Total school buses inspected		5.0
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		0.6
Total trucks weighed *		3.2
Total overweight citations *		0.7
Total dyed fuel inspections *		35.6
Total dyed fuel citations *		0.0

\* Commercial sworn only

**Analysis**

The average number of crashes investigated per traffic position was 4.8 to 1. This ratio declined from December due to the reduction of crashes investigated in January. Total violations per trooper increased in January to 76.6 from 70.5 per trooper in December.

The ratios for commercial personnel increased in the majority of the reported areas compared to December. The increased ratios include the number of Hazardous moving violations, the total number of safety inspections, repair orders, vehicles and drivers placed out of service, to name a few.

**Administrative Service**

**Court/Warrants:** The section transported 26 prisoners on misdemeanor warrants in January, compared to 22 in December. The section received and served 249 Subpoenas, an increase from 213 in December. The section had a significant increase in warrants entered, 331 warrants were entered in December and 1,903 were entered in January. The improvement resulted from the streamlining of the entry process and overtime being worked to clear the backlog.

**Evidence:** The evidence section had a large decrease in the number of adjudicated items disposed of this rating period compared to the last period, 23 this month compared to 57 in December. This decrease was due to the Administrative Assistant IV assigned to evidence being on annual leave for 43 hours during the first two weeks of January. There were 23 new cases submitted this period with 61 items. This represents a small decrease compared to December.

**Front office:** The front office showed an increase in the number of customers assisted at the counter during January. The staff helped 293 customers with office reports, accident reports and questions. The staff received 343 requests for reports and was able to copy and mail out 123 reports. The staff processed 206 arrest reports and 397 accident reports.

**Training;** Defensive Tactics (D.T.) and the Basic OC course training was provided for the Academy cadets by the training coordinator. The revised D.T. lesson plan was completed and work is in progress on the 2004 training calendar.

**Work Hours;** Sworn, the training coordinator claimed forty-two hours of overtime for this rating period. The majority of this overtime was due to training provided at the academy and for remedial training. The training coordinator also attended the First Line Supervisors Academy for 40 hours, thus the increase in training time and the decrease in work hours lost. The court /warrants section had 12.3 hours of overtime during this rating period due to an out of state prisoner extradition. Overtime increased by 21% due to the backlog of warrants being entered.

## **Communications Center**

On January 28, 2004, the 800 MHZ radio system went on line. The communication center is adjusting to the radio system, as are the field troopers. At the time of the conversion two more radio channels were added, RN3 and RN4. These additional channels will assist with allied agency and special event traffic. The center is currently recruiting for a shift supervisor position and entry-level dispatch positions. One new dispatcher began employment on January 29, 2004.

## **Public Information Officer**

January 2004, the Northern Command continued to provide the media a variety of stories and coverage of our operations. The media covered the division with seven television news interviews and with twenty-five printed articles. The topics included NHP arrests, investigations and comments on a variety of law enforcement topics.

## ***Projects / Action Plans***

Aggressive "Bowl Patrol" will continue during commuter times. As of December 1, 2003, we have six motorcycle units on special squads. Three will be on day shift and three will work on an early swing shift. Their priority will be enforcement and responding to crashes in the bowl area and the construction zones during high commuting times. This will assist the car units to work outside the perimeter of the core area to step up the enforcement in these areas.

The Carson/Tahoe/Minden district will continue to emphasize seatbelt violations and directed enforcement targeted at high accident areas and times. The area will be utilizing the ADAPT program to reduce aggressive driving.

## ***Upcoming Events***

Presidents Day weekend will bring a larger than normal tourist population to the Reno area. Friday, February 13, 2004, and Monday February 16, 2004, will be heavy travel days for the interstate to and from California, especially with Valentine's Day falling on a Saturday. The division will be concentrating our weekend enforcement on the busy thoroughfares.